
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 29, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

JUDICIAL BRANCH REQUEST — JUSTICE SYSTEM APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2019 Request. The Judicial Branch is requesting a total of \$192.6 million from the General Fund, an increase of \$13.8 million compared to estimated FY 2018, as presented in the table below. Under Iowa Code section [602.1301](#), the Judicial Branch has until December 1, 2017, to submit its budget request to the General Assembly.

General Fund Appropriation Totals					
	Actual FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Dept Request FY 2019	Dept Req v. FY 2018	Percent Change
Judicial Branch	\$ 175,686,612	\$ 175,686,612	\$ 189,527,327	\$ 13,840,715	7.9%
Jury & Witness Revolving Fund	3,100,000	3,100,000	3,100,000	0	0.0%
Total Judicial Branch	\$ 178,786,612	\$ 178,786,612	\$ 192,627,327	\$ 13,840,715	7.7%

Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch is requesting increases from the General Fund totaling approximately \$13.8 million, including:

- \$6.8 million for full staffing of the Judicial Branch and continued operation of specialty courts.
- \$6.5 million for technological projects and maintenance. Projects include information security and infrastructure, statewide conversion of historic paper inventory to digital storage, an online access-to-justice portal, and enhanced jury management software.
- \$85,400 for a specialty courts study. The purpose of the study would be to evaluate the structure and practices of the 47 existing specialty courts.
- \$500,000 for digital audio recording equipment for 25 district associate courtrooms across the State. The recorders would be utilized when no court reporters are available to make the record. There is a court reporter shortage, with 12 positions currently vacant.

Vacant Positions. There are 115 vacant positions in the Judicial Branch, including 11 judicial officers and 20 juvenile court officers. The Judicial Branch has eliminated 67 positions (4.0% of authorized full-time equivalent positions) from clerk of district court offices. The FY 2019 budget request does not include funding for those 67 eliminated positions.

Additional Notes. The following additional information can be found on the Legislative Services Agency webpage:

- [Appropriation Tracking](#)
- [Department Webpages](#)
- [Budget Unit Briefs](#)
- **Fiscal Update Article** — [FY 2018 Judicial Branch Operating Budget](#)

LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515.725.0509) laura.book@legis.iowa.gov
Alice Fulk Wisner (515.281.6764) alice.wisner@legis.iowa.gov